

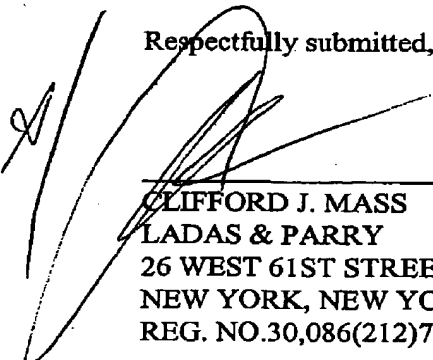
REMARKS

The Official Action of December 18, 2003 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the "at least two steps" relates to the dewaxing/degumming in accordance with the specification as filed at, for example, page 10, second full paragraph and the Examples. The amendment to claim 1 is respectfully believed to remove the basis for the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Since Applicants have removed the basis for the sole rejection remaining in the application it is respectfully believed that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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